

MINUTES OF THE 36th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE SWAN (RADCOT) CRUISER CLUB

The Trout Lechlade on 9th October 2021

Present Committee:

Trevor Matthews – Commodore & Treasurer

Alan Hill – Secretary & Website

Dot Grafton – Event Secretary

Sue Hiscock – Auditor & Event Support

Peter Bint - Event Support

Dave Hansell – Event Support

Commodore opened the meeting at 5pm and thanked everybody for attending despite the current issues with Covid. Apologies for having to reschedule the AGM from The Ferryman to The Trout at short notice but we were not informed of The Ferryman roof problem until August bank holiday.

1. Apologies

Sue & Andrew Hiscock – Sueandbuoys

George & Julie Jarman – Just Julie

Nick & Debbie Hunt – Julieanne

Russell Crawford

2. Minutes of the Last “Virtual” AGM

Acceptance of the Minutes was proposed by Frank Huddleston , seconded by Jill Hill.

3. Matters Arising from Previous AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising.

3. Treasurer’s Financial Report

The Treasurer distributed copies of the Club’s Annual Statement to all Members via the website prior to the meeting and hardcopies to those attending the AGM explained the key points:

- Our finances remain healthy with a current balance of £22,697.11. Our reserves for emergencies have increased due to Covid and are around £14k – we have monies collected for the next Crane out of £7.3k. Our year-end balance is higher than expected primarily due to the lack of events which we had planned to subsidise. We will be able to use some of these additional funds subsidising future events and towards any crane out deficit caused by the recent King Lifting price increase.
- Our membership income was £2,965 (104 members – 90 boats). There remains about a 10% turnover of membership which is driven primarily by members selling their boats. Former non boating members remain very welcome.
- Crane out is planned to financially break even. Our last lift ran at a surplus of £303 primarily due no price increases and no foundation work being required for the cranes. Crane out costs for this year's lift have increased by about 25% so we plan to fund this shortfall from the Club's reserves. We have gone several years with no price increase from King Lifting so it has been expected. Next year we there will be a price increase for crane out to bring it back to breakeven.
- Collecting the full payment of the crane out fees was much easier and has reduced admin by more than 50%. It has also eliminated late cancellations making crane out planning easier.
- Paypal fees of £24.45 were from the last few transactions made before we closed the Club Paypal account last October. Closing Paypal significantly reduced admin work and eliminated the errors where some members were making duplicate payments resulting in refunds.
- The Club made a £200 donation to Cancer Research UK in memory of Bob Timms.
- I would like to thank Sue Hiscock who our auditor. Every month she diligently checks the accounts.

Any questions?

There was one question regarding refunds for the cancelled AGM food orders. The treasurer confirmed all refunds were made within a couple of days of the cancellation.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report

Proposed: John Raper

Seconded: Dave Hansell

In view of the current Club reserves the Committee agreed to have a free raffle at the end of the meeting.

5. Proposals

There were no proposals.

6. Election of Officers, Committee & President

Dave Hansell left the Committee due to work commitments. Thanks were conveyed for his contribution to the Club.

Members were happy for the existing to continue and there were no new volunteers.

The existing Committee agreed to continue for the 2021/2022 season is as follows:

Trevor Matthews Commodore & Treasurer

Alan Hill Secretary & Website

Dot Grafton Event Secretary

Sue Hiscock Auditor

Peter Bint Event Support

I would like to thank Tracy Day who has been monitoring and managing our Club Facebook pages.

We currently have a vacancy for a Vice Commodore and ideally this would be a member who would be willing to ultimately take on the role of Commodore. Ideally, we would also like one or two more volunteers to join the committee for their opinions and help where needed.

7. Commodore's Review

1. Thanks to all the committee for their support and to you all for supporting our Club social events.
2. A special thankyou to Alan Hill for his efforts with crane out planning over the past 5 years and to John Raper for taking over the role for the next lift.
3. A thank must also go to Helen and John Raper kindly have volunteered their services organising our raffles and quiz nights and to Carol Malpass for organising our winter break at Eastbourne. Some spaces for double and twin rooms are still available.

4. Crane out and in was successful and we did our best to comply with Covid regulations. I would like to thank everyone who makes it a success and particularly those who are actively involved with chocking and jacking the boats for most of the day. Thanks to Chrissie and Malcolm Robey for their efficient and excellent pressure washing. A thank you also to “Admiral” John Douse who hung up his helmet as Crane 1 Supervisor after many years of service.
5. Alan has continued efforts on improving the Club website without which the Club could not function. All our transactions and communications are driven by the website. New membership applications are now much easier to process and a better experience for the new applicants.
6. This year most of our committee interactions have been via email and this has worked very well in exchanging ideas and agreeing actions to operate the Club. Each month the Club accounts are circulated together with a series of updates to keep the Committee informed of relevant information and items requiring action. This makes the need to physically attend meetings less important.
7. Our Mooring Lines Newsletter is issued every quarter and hopefully we will be able to include more content on our forthcoming social calendar. I would like to encourage more members to contribute any articles and again thank our Editor Alan.
8. Most of our Club calendar was scuttled by Covid but on the bright side our first event since Covid at Kings Lock was a success. We enjoyed relaxed weekend socialising and we will run the event again next year. The provisional calendar for next season has been issued with the Club accounts but some events subject to the availability of The Ferryman function room.
9. The EA have made very good progress in clearing overhanging trees and the work Seb Cooke has been doing with the landowners has significantly improved navigation. Their response to Covid 19 has not been the best with the lock keepers being invisible for much of the season. Some of the social distancing barriers around the locks are difficult to comprehend. The River Users Group continues to lobby for better assisted passage with limited success. Hopefully, we will get better assisted passage with new resident lock keepers at Rushey (Juliet Parsons) and Radcot Locks (Lee Grice).

Those of us who made it to our boats know how lucky we are to own a boat especially being able to escape from the many Covid restrictions and enjoy the tranquillity and health benefits of the river. I hope you all get as much boat time as possible!

If you have any ideas on how we can improve the running of our Club then please join the committee and help make it happen.

8. Any other business

1. The Thames Motor Boat Association have issued a survey which Alan will circulate to members. The aim is to give constructive feedback to the EA and members are encouraged to complete the survey.
2. Andrew Hichens the owner of Grafton field requested that all Club boats be removed after the winter storage period October – April. This is to comply with existing planning permission.
3. Peter Bird enquired about finding another crane company in view of the recent price increase. Alan had investigated other suppliers in the past but the quality of service and other requirements made it difficult to justify changing supplier. The consensus was we would not change as we had very good service from King Lifting and had not had a price increase for several years.
4. The Secretary thanked Trevor in his roles as Commodore & Treasurer for all his efforts in contributing to the running of the club. It was pointed out to the members just how much work he does.

Added by the Secretary, as Trevor, in his modesty, omitted it.

The raffle was drawn after everyone attending had received a free ticket. It proved good fun as Helen and John had wrapped the prizes making it a lucky dip. The highlight was that new member Tim Clark won a Club burgee which was very appropriate.

The Commodore closed the meeting at 5.45pm.

Minutes written by Trevor Matthews